

November 2003

Rumo(u)rs from Paddington

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Recommended Citation

Rayner, Daryl (2003) "Rumo(u)rs from Paddington," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 15: Iss. 5, Article 38.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.4186>

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Rumo(u)rs from Paddington

by **Daryl Rayner** (Marketing Director, xrefer; Phone: +44 (0) 20 7479 9204; Fax: +44 (0) 20 7479 9212)
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OK, so the running circuits at lunch time around the **Serpentine Lake** in **Hyde Park** have evolved into something more ambitious. I have applied to run the **London Marathon** (<http://www.london-marathon.co.uk/>) in April. Now, there's always a chance that I won't get selected. They ask two questions on the application form: how old are you and what is your best previous marathon completion time? I can inform you that on both counts I fall into the "less than likely" categories! But I need to train "just in case" my name comes up in December, so I have been running to work. Whilst doing this, I have discovered running is much, much nicer than being on the tube ("subway"), so even if I don't get picked I've found an enjoyable alternative way of getting to work in the mornings. But I am looking for someone to run with, so if any of you are interested, email me <daryl.rayner@xrefer.com>.

Enough of marathons and onto libraries. Let me update you on what is happening in the library world this side of the Atlantic....

English women's writing has received a huge boost with the opening of the **Chawton House Library** (<http://www.chawton.org/>). Housed in an Elizabethan mansion that once belonged to **Jane Austen's** brother, the reference library will house 9,000 books and aims

to provide access to the texts within an appropriate contextual setting, that of a seventeenth/eighteenth-century country house and working farm.

The first quarter report of a **Laser Foundation** funded feasibility study on eBooks in public libraries is now available. Among its aims is to evaluate three different eBook formats. You can access the report at <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/dis/disresearch/e-booksinpublib/>. **Linda Berube**, <linda.berube@cambridgeshire.gov.uk> who visited us in Paddington recently, is involved with this project. In fact, on catching up with **Linda**, I realized that she is always involved in lots of projects. A living example of true multi-tasking!!

I have learnt that the **Idea Store**, part of **Tower Hamlets** flagship library project (due to be completed in 2005) has received funding of £80k to include a state-of-the-art Learning Lab (<http://www.ideastore.co.uk>). I look forward to visiting it!

A "ground breaking new service" which brings together information about all public libraries in London has been launched. "**What's in London Libraries**" (**Will**) allows simultaneous searching of library catalogues, community information databases and a range of museum and archive collections. So far

eighteen of the thirty-three catalogues are connected and the rest, I am told, should be available by spring (<http://www.londonlibraries.org.uk/will>).

BioMed Central, the innovative independent publishing house run by the ever-energetic **Vitek Tracz** <vitek@cursci.co.uk> has signed an arrangement with **JISC**, whereby **JISC** is funding a fifteen-month membership of **BioMed Central** for all U.K. universities.

Netskills (<http://www.netskills.ac.uk/workshops/forthcoming.html>) has a full schedule of workshops running throughout the U.K. from October 2003 to March 2004. Many of these workshops will count towards the **Netskills/BTEC Professional Development Certificates** in both Web Development and e-Learning

Good to see that the **U.K. Serials Group** (<http://www.uksg.org/events/awards04.asp>) has announced details of its **International Research Awards Programme** for 2004. Two separate £1,000 awards are available to any individual currently registered at a higher education institution or in employment and undertaking formal pre-qualification study (full- or part-time). In both cases, the piece of work being undertaken must form part of the requirements for the course or of the formal pre-qualification study.


The **National Archives of the U.K.** has announced the launch of a new archive of **U.K. Central Government Websites** <http://www.pro.gov.uk/webarchive/>.

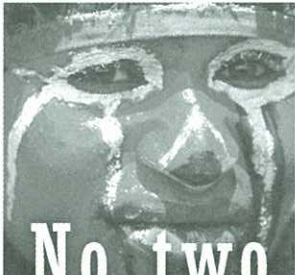
The **Internet Resources Newsletter — Issue 109** (<http://www.hw.ac.uk/libwww/irn/irn109/irn109.html>) — edited by **Roddy MacLeod**, **Heriot-Watt University** is now available.

I am pleased to announce that **Liz Hart**, Audio Visual Services Librarian at the **London Borough of Enfield Libraries** has been made an Honorary Member of the **International Association of Music Libraries** — well done, **Liz**!

Paul Harwood, formerly Managing Director of **Swets Blackwell** has left to work at **Content Complete Ltd.**, a new company he has set up jointly with former **Swets** Colleague **Albert Prior**. I wish them luck. Their collective bundles of experience will serve them well, I am sure!

I am also pleased to announce that **xrefer** has launched version two of **xreferplus**, its reference service to libraries. This new version incorporates a range of conversion tables and its "Research Mapper," a new information visualization tool. A public version of the mapper can be found at <http://www.xrefer.com/research>.

Hopefully, I will have caught up with many of you at the **Charleston Conference**. Looking forward to it. 



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